



## Senate Press Office

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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# Senator Rogers Announces ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday



ATLANTA (October 1, 2008) – State Sen. Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock) and Representative Lynn Smith (R- Newnan) held a joint press conference today to promote Georgia’s fourth annual ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday. Sen. Rogers and Rep. Smith were joined by Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) Director Chris Clark, Georgia Retail Association (GRA) President John Heavener, and John Powers, the Atlanta-

South Metro District Manager for Lowe’s Companies, Inc.

“A couple of years ago, we thought a good idea would be to add these ENERGY STAR appliances and to do two things, help people save money and help people save energy,” said Sen. Rogers. “When you have a public policy that does both, I think you’ve hit a home run. At the end of the day, it’s all about the taxpayers saving money and getting products that will help save them energy.”

The sales tax holiday begins on Thursday, October 2, 2008 and runs through Sunday, October 5, 2008. During this time Georgians will not have to pay state or local sales taxes on the purchase of energy efficient or water efficient products that cost \$1,500 or less per item. This is the first year the tax holiday has been expanded to include WaterSense labeled products.

“With our current economic, energy, and water crises I can think of no simpler way for Georgians to do their part to help alleviate these three problems currently facing our state than to purchase ENERGY STAR and WaterSense products. This sales tax holiday will help them do just that,” said Rep. Smith. “Purchasing ENERGY STAR and WaterSense products is a simple, common sense way for Georgians to save money, conserve energy and water, and protect the environment.”

“The sales tax holiday for ENERGY STAR and WaterSense products couldn’t be coming at a better time. Georgia currently faces an energy crisis, a water crisis and severe economic challenges. The sales tax holiday will help address all three issues,” said GRA President John Heavener. Thanks to the leadership of Representative Lynn Smith and Senator Chip Rogers, we are again seeing the state’s citizens being rewarded for practicing good ecological stewardship. Both Energy STAR and Water Sense products will help Georgia's families, its economy and the environment.”

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to help American’s choose energy efficient products that will save them money on their utility bills and protect the environment. ENERGY STAR appliances and products that qualify for the sales tax holiday include dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, dehumidifiers, programmable thermostats, refrigerators, doors and windows.

WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that helps Americans to save water and protect the environment. WaterSense appliances and products that qualify for the sales tax holiday include bathroom sink faucets, faucet accessories, showerheads, high-efficiency urinals, high-efficiency toilets, and weather or sensor-based irrigation controllers.

For additional information regarding the ENERGY STAR and WaterSense Sales Tax Holiday, please visit the Georgia Department of Revenue’s website at [www.dor.ga.gov](http://www.dor.ga.gov).

***Pictured above (L-R): Sen. Rogers addresses the crowd during the press conference, joined by Rep. Smith, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) Director Chris Clark and Georgia Retail Association (GRA) President John Heavener.***

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*Sen. Chip Rogers serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee. He represents the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District which includes portions of Cherokee and Cobb counties. He can be reached at his office at 404.463.1378 or by email at [chip.rogers@senate.ga.gov](mailto:chip.rogers@senate.ga.gov).*